**Western Report to ACER-CART**

Gerry Tiede

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**RTAM recent initiatives: JoAnn Hoyak**

1. Worked on a joint submission with MTS in response to the provincial government’s pension benefits review recommendations.
2. Continuing contact meetings with politicians—Education minister-Ian Wishart in Feb. ,  Liberal leader Doug Lamont on March 22, NDP leader Wab Kinew on March 20.
3. Continuing the planning of a “Meet and Greet” at the Legislature on April 10.
4. Continuing working toward having a retired teacher appointed to the TRAF Board.
5. Monitoring the government’s decision as to the dispersal of the restricted surplus and the status of our COLA as Bill 45 comes to an end.
6. Continuing lobbying to have RTAM legislated as the official voice for retired teachers.
7. Monitoring the status of Bill C-27, as well as budget developments federally and provincially.
8. Preparing for our AGM in May.
9. Solidifying our relationship with MTS. Our March Board of Directors meeting will be held at McMaster House in March at the invitation of the Manitoba Teacher’s Society.
10. Attempting to keep information to our members current through KIT and the website.

**BCRTA initiatives: Steve Bailey**

1. The issue of some kind of **pre-retirement membership option** to introduce people to RT organizations. Has anyone done this?
2. The issue of membership of non-public system educators
3. Alberta experience with EdVantage. Is this a viable alternative to individual Members’ Advantage (Affinity) Programs?
4. Provision for members to opt out of mailings from Advantage Partners.
5. Transition to an Executive Director staff position.
6. Updating our expense policies.
7. Updating our investment strategies.
8. Continued development of our insurance programs.
9. Actuarial valuation of our pension plans expected to show a significant surplus. Effect on pensioners?

Report to ACER-CART – March 1, 2018

**Saskatchewan RTA initiatives -  LeBlanc-Warick**

The following activities and initiatives have taken place since our last report in November, 2017:

* A new three-year agreement has been reached with our extended health benefits and dental benefits provider. There are challenges, which we understand are also being felt by other plans, in particular regarding the price of pharmaceuticals, increased use of certain classes of drugs such as heart medications, and the usage of paramedicals.
* Our annual budget is finalized and in preparation for presentation to the STS AGM in May.
* A membership campaign is underway to attract new members to the STS and to its benefit plans. As membership in both is voluntary, and the growth of the membership is important to the STS, this is an important ongoing issue.
* Preparations are underway for the STS Annual General Meeting which will be held May 8 to 10, 2018 in Saskatoon.
* Other factors affecting STS Benefit Plans:
  + Government dropping coverage for several programs including hearing aid services, CPAP machines and equipment, etc.
  + Beginning in June 2017 the Provincial government had imposed the 6% PST to insurance premiums and health benefit premiums. This amounted to huge costs to our plans, first, in gearing up in personnel, communications and computer programming for the collection and handling of this tax, and secondly, in the cost to members and to the plan.
  + After the election of Premier Moe, the government has reversed the imposition of this tax back to its inception in June, 2017.
  + So now, the entire process, after the government clarifies timelines and procedures, must be reversed and that process will again cause addition financial hardship to the STS.